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PRESS RELEASE

USAID CAMFA II and Aglinks Projects Conduct Rural and Agricultural Finance Training Seminar (RAF)

From March 13 to 15, 2008 Central Asia Microfinance Alliance Project (CAMFA) together with Central Asian Republics Regional Agricultural Linkages Project (AgLinks), both funded by USAID, will conduct a training seminar on rural and agricultural finance for the representatives of banking and governmental institutions, donor agencies, business associations, private agricultural processors and dairy companies. The seminar is for those who directly or indirectly promote the development of agricultural production, processing and agricultural finance sector in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The event will take place at the Aurora Resort, on the lake Issyk Kul where over 45 participants will gather for three days in order to gain knowledge in agribusiness, and learn about the key challenges and constraints to rural and agricultural finance. Leading specialists from the CAMFA and AgLinks Projects will present materials on such topics as agricultural value chains (scheme, dynamics of the value chain and financial flows), Outgrower Schemes, Trade Credit, Rural Deposit Mobilization, Ag Dependent Household Loans, Credit Enhancements, Credit Guarantees, Moveable and Immoveable Collateral, etc.

Rural and Agricultural Finance Trainings are popular subjects worldwide especially in developing countries with transition economies. The goal of this seminar is not only to provide information for the development of new agricultural loan products but also to develop a better understanding on the part of the lenders about risks in agricultural lending.

This seminar content is directed to the realities and challenges of the agricultural production sector in our country in order to meet the needs of our agricultural producers and lenders.

Mary Miller, a USAID-funded consultant will facilitate the seminar and provide her presentation on the topic of challenges of RAF and value chain evaluation.

CAMFA II AgLinks Projects are supported by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Central Asia. Since 1992, the American people through USAID have provided more than \$1.5 billion in programs that support region's democratic institutions, social sector, and economic growth.

